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Nº 11 FEBRUARY 1979

Hall Progress

The Annual General Meeting (1978) for the Hall was held in a room in the hotel on Tuesday 16th January 1979. The existing committee were re-elected but there are still two vacancies and anyone that feels they may be interested should contact the Chairman, Mr. Pat MacDonald. How about someone from "Up the Glen"?

The renovations and new extension are now more or less complete despite setbacks caused by severe weather conditions. Cleaning operations are now underway and will be completed in plenty of time for the Grand Opening on Saturday 31st March.

The renovations and new extension would have been non-existent if four well known members of the

community had not gritted their teeth, and suffered considerable discomfort when they undertook a marathon walk from Kyle of Lochalsh to Invermoriston. This fantastic achievement raised the magnificent sum of £619.53 (to date). We all take our hats off to Allan Nairn, Duncan MacDonald, Margaret Smart and Margaret Ferguson and thank them for their great endeavour.

DATE TO NOTE:-

GRAND CONCERN to mark the re-opening. The Hall belongs to everyone in the Glen so let everyone join in the celebrations. Saturday March 3rd.

A.D.

editorial

We again thank the pupils of Invermoriston and Dalchreichart Schools for the volume and quality of their contributions, and for the efforts of their mentors. We regret that a selection could not be printed - this is due to lack of space - to accompany Colin MacDonald's winning story. But all the material received is kept and stored away for possible future publication; and in the period during which each issue of "Moriston Matters" is being prepared for publication, a completely fresh look will be given to all the contributions submitted for consideration for the prize, subject of course to the limitations a specified topic would impose.

The topic for the April edition is, in the wake of such an exacting winter, SPRING.

We have a small surplus of funds, and we have decided to use part of this surplus thus. We would be interested in acts and deeds under the very broad heading of "Young Citizenship". This might be voluntary work concerned with senior citizens, the hospitalised, children unable to lead normal lives, raising funds for charities...it might be activities connected with care for the environment, improving community amenities, etc. This is not a formal competition; there is no formal prize. However, we invite adults to nominate young people under the age of 16, from Glenmoriston, who they think have been voluntarily participating in some way as described above, giving brief details. "Moriston Matters" will then use some of its surplus funds to show

appreciation for the efforts of the participants in whatever worthy cause they have been engaged. Nominations should be received by mid-July, 1979.

*Note: "Voluntarily" does not preclude children being offered suggestions, help, etc.

All contributors are sincerely thanked.

It has also been suggested by several readers that a "Small Ads" column might be helpful. If anyone wishes to make use of this facility the charge will be 10p. for 18 words and 1p. per word thereafter.

THE CAROLLERS.

It was a fine night when the carol-singers set out on Tuesday, December 19th with three cars and a variable number of children and adults as some joined us en route and others were unable to stay for the whole evening. We sang from Bhlaraidh to Inchmore and Dalchreichart and everywhere were generously rewarded. Invermoriston School had presented their Nativity Play that afternoon and so the children were in good voice and on several occasions sang one of the special carols they had learned. But the evening grew colder as it wore on and the invitations into some of the houses, and especially Mrs Ferguson's tea and sandwiches provided the reviving necessary to keep us going till ten o'clock. We had arranged to wind up the evening at Levishie, where, in spite of a full house, Margaret McDonnell squeezed us in and plied us with more refreshment while we counted the takings - £16.20 which has been gratefully received by Shelter.

Visit to the PANTO

REPORTS.

On Friday 12th January, the Children's Committee took the teenagers of Glenmoriston to the pantomime, "Cinderella". Transport was provided by Mike Tomlin, Lorna Service, Mr Fraser and Pat. The pantomime was very good and at the interval the Children's Committee bought us ice-cream. We arrived home about 11 o'clock. We all thank those who made it possible for us to go and see the pantomime.

M.S.S.

AND CANDID COMMENTS:- FROM THE YOUNGER AUDIENCE.

"The dancing was lovely, the velvet cloaks looked cosy"

"The coach scene was very well done, and the ponies were beautiful".

"I liked the 'Ah-Ah' song"

"The 'Fingers Thumb' game was dangerous - we could have gone over the balcony".

"It made us communicate, be friendly".

"I thought it would have been better without the jokes".

"I thought it was funny when they put Mia on the baby".

On the evening of 12th January some senior pupils from Glenmoriston visited Eden Court to see the production of "Cinderella". Local transport was laid on. The show began at 7.30 p.m. and ice-cream was provided during the interval.

It was a very lavish programme with colourful costumes and beautiful scenes, especially the scene during which Cinderella was whisked off to the Ball in a silver coach drawn by two real white Shetland Ponies. The "Drumnadrochit" Ball was a luxurious affair with the ladies attired in gorgeous dresses and the men in velvet suits and powdered wigs.

The pantomime, itself, superbly acted with comedians, Walter Carr and Rikki Fulton all but bringing the roof down!

It was a wonderful outing, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

F.G.

"I was wondering whether the baby had anything on under its wee nightie".

"The Ugly Sisters didn't sound very like ladies".

"They looked like waddling ducks in their tight dresses".

"I thought Cinderella and Buttons were soppy".

"All the noises made me jump".

"I didn't like being there so long. They were all very silly".

"The music was swingy".

"I loved it".

A BURNING TOPIC! ~THE WEATHER +

MAN AND FROST.

YOU.....FROST
So pinch all my extremities.
You pinch my ears
And freeze my toes
Nip all my fingers
Redden the point of my nose;
My feet you sometimes turn to stones
And chill the very marrow of my bones.
You take vengeance on all my new inventions
And interfere with all my good intentions,
You so absorb my time
You and your glinty rime.

Do you remember how you
And made it into a huge iceberg,
Flashing your icy darts at Mitchell's men
And drove them streaming down the Glen
For refuge in Buckie, Banff or Keith
And other spots to still their chattering teeth,
Their plans and pipes a broken mass behind;
Others their lodgings in the Glen to find
In frail human homes - like match boxes
Against the mighty snowy Hills?

What if you were to win against those limbs,
To freeze them hard and then to lay them low!
The sun anew would rise and shine and glow
And chase you headlong from the lovely scene
To splash the Glen again with Gold and Green,
And thanks to Him who made both me and You
Where Hills are purple and the Sky is blue.

I shall be with the SUN.

P.F.

WEATHER REPORT.

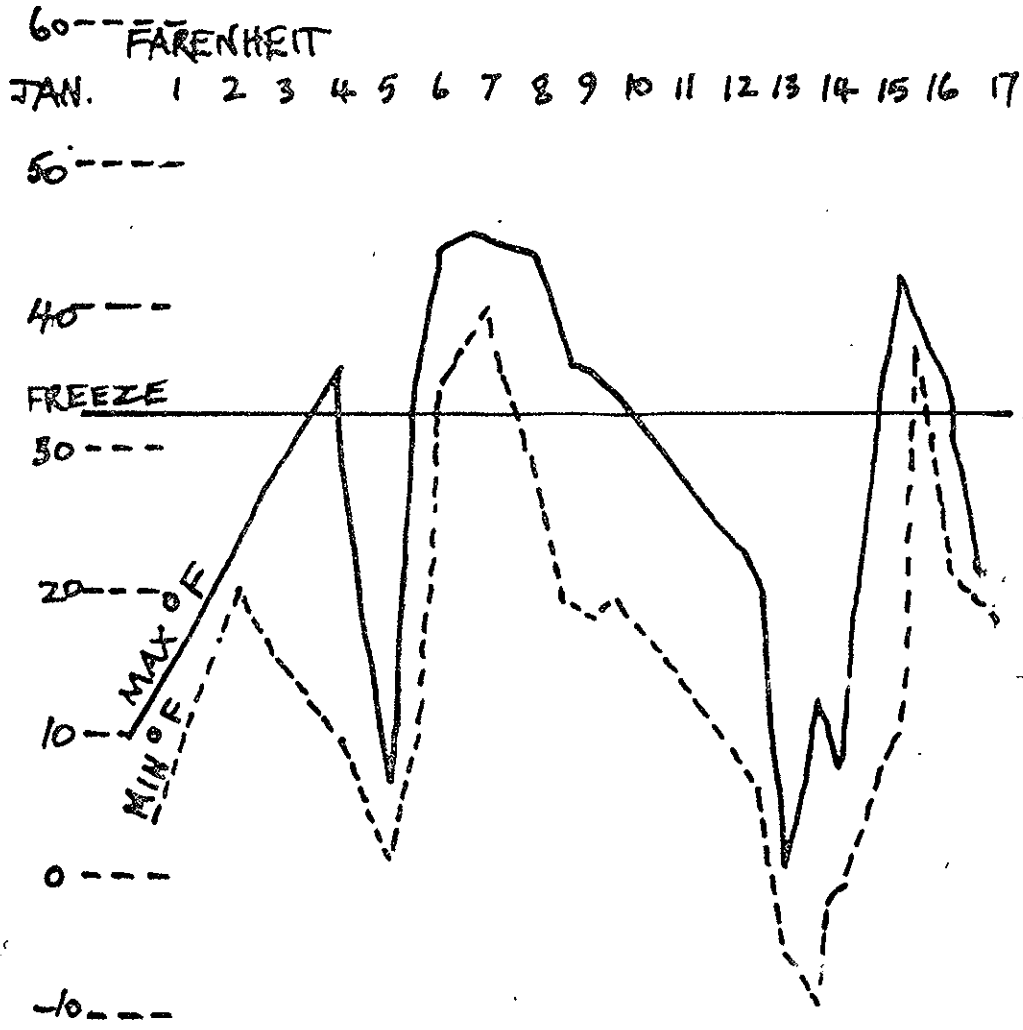
Just to break the ice as it were! - the weather, always being a major British talking point, has given us all rather more to think about than usual. This year's weather has been exceptional to say the least and the records here, up the Glen, make some very interesting comparisons possible. The weather centre in Glasgow gets occasional reports from Glenmoriston when conditions seem exceptional, so we are on the weather maps despite the

apparent ignorance of local conditions shown by the national forecasts quite frequently. This shortcoming as far as forecasting is concerned is due to our unique geographical position and physical features which often cause complete contradictions of the general trend. For instance, sometimes when heavy moisture-laden westerly winds are forecast to give heavy rain in our area the Glen and often the village are drier and finer than the

weather(ctd)

Western Highlands in general. This is because there is a natural low pass all the way to the west coast at Kyle, through Loch Alsh, Loch Duich, Glen Shiel and Loch Cluanie, then down Glenmoriston. The air does not rise so much as on either side where the Kintail range and Cluanie

wondering, who this twit is, telling him how dry we are!, but there is a reason, and it is that a big eddy is caused during westerlies over Cluanie, by Sgurr an Lochain and Aonach air Chrith at 3282 and 3342 feet respectively, swirling the airstream up and over 5,000 feet, then it just has to drop the lot all over that area!



ridge push it to over 4,000 feet, and therefore we get, in an admittedly narrow track, less than Glen Garry or Glen Affric. This track is so well defined that it is often possible to see it pouring down at Inverwick while the Glen road is quite dry. Daniel might well be

Now to 1979 and temperatures which have caused a great deal of worry, damage and concern to everyone in the community, from frozen domestic water supplies to frostbitten stock. The GRAPH illustrates the record so far at Dundreggan (mid-January)

Weather (Ctd)

The main peaks were on the nights of 1st January and 5th at 0°F (32 degrees of frost) and the nights of 12th January and 13th, giving -9°F respectively, which is 41 degrees of frost. This is the lowest notified and recorded temperature in this area (Western Highlands) this century and was the third lowest temperature recorded in Britain on the night of Friday 12th. The others were 1°F less in Lanarkshire - the lower one being 2°F less, that is -11°F , in Carnwath, Lanarkshire again. Reason: extremely low temperature airstream from North coupled with clear skies all night providing no insulating blanket of cloud and a constant build up of these conditions for almost a week. Ironically the weather station at the North Pole had daytime and night temperatures some 5 - 10°F warmer than we had between the 10th and 14th of January,

although as a matter of comparison, the lowest temperature ever recorded at the North Pole is -89.9°F in Siberia (that is 119°F of frost), and in the world, at the South Pole, a record low of -126.4°F (more than 158°F of frost) has been recorded.

Well, until the ice age really gets to grips with us and new records are set we should be past the worst for this season in terms of frost.

M.A.T

On the night of January 12th - 13th Pat recorded 16°C of frost at the Filling Station - the lowest regarding in the ten years since he began keeping records, and the temperature on Saturday, 13th did not rise above -9°C all day.

DR BUCHANAN FUND

DR. E.G. BUCHANAN FUND.

Over $\pounds 400$ was collected mainly in the communities of Fort Augustus, Glengarry and Glenmoriston. On December 5th a sub-committee comprising two representatives from each community presented recommendations on the use of the fund to a public meeting. The sub-committee, which included Mr. I. Grant and Mr. G. Cowie as Glenmoriston representatives, proposed that the fund be used to meet accounts for equipment to be purchased for the local surgery up to a total of $\pounds 1,000$, and for the period ending December 1979, that in addition a full-sized cinema projector be bought for use in the community, and that finally any funds remaining be donated to the Discretionary Fund of the Chief Medical

Social Worker in the Inverness Hospitals Group. These recommendations were accepted unanimously.

The use of the fund for medical equipment and by the hospital social worker will benefit the sick and distressed. The projector will be available to any group, e.g. church groups, youth groups, schools, etc, and the Community Council has been asked if it will take over the care and maintenance of it. With our hall almost ready for use again, we look forward to many film nights at Invermoriston. As we enjoy ourselves, we will remember Eddie Buchanan who gave so much for our community and himself loved to see others enjoying themselves.

G.M.C.

Fun and Games

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HOUSING DIFFICULTY!

A young couple about to be married were looking at a house in the country. After satisfying themselves it was suitable, they made their way home.

During the journey the young lady was very thoughtful and, when asked the reason why, said, "Did you notice any W.C?". He had not noticed any, so wrote to the landlord asking where it was situated.

The ignorant old landlord did not understand the meaning of W.C. but came to the conclusion it stood for Wesleyan Church and answered as follows:-

"I have great pleasure in informing you that the W.C. is situated about nine miles from the house, and capable of holding 250 persons. This is an unfortunate situation for you if you are in the habit of going regularly, but we are sure you will be glad to know that a great number of people take their lunch with them and make a day of it, while others who cannot spare the time go

by car and arrive there just in time. It will also be interesting for you to know that my daughter was married in the W.C.; in fact, it was there that she first met her husband. I remember the marriage well on account of the great rush for seats - there were ten persons on a seat usually occupied by two and it was wonderful to watch the expression on their faces. My brother was there too, he has gone regularly since the day he was christened. A wealthy resident in the district erected a bell over the W.C. last week to be rung every time a member entered. A bazaar is to be held next door and the proceeds are to help to provide plush seats as members feel this to be a long-felt want. My wife and I are getting old now and do not go as regularly as we used to. It is six years since we went last and I can assure you that it pains us very much not to be able to go more regularly

J.M.Edinburgh.

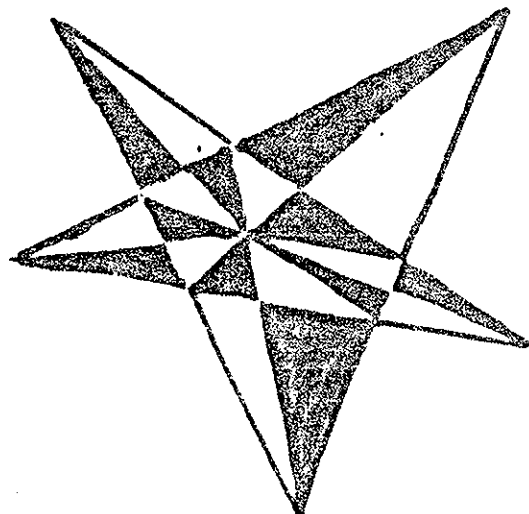
DE

How many different triangles are there in the diagram alongside? Probably more than you think!

DID YOU PAIR THEM CORRECTLY?

1 - D; 2 - I; 3 - A; 4 - 4; 5 - J;
6 - H; 7 - C; 8 - F; 9 - B; 10 - G.

(More "Fun 'n' Games" on preceding page.)



the historical glen

8.

This issue we leave our own "HISTORICAL GLEN" to print, in two parts, the career on Loch Ness and tragic death of John Cobb. The article, written by Mr Alex. Menzies of Temple Pier, was first printed in the Glenurquhart Community Bulletin and is now reprinted here by courtesy of that magazine. The photographs were kindly made available by Mr.Menzies.



The John Cobb Story^{9.}

Part I

Twenty-six years ago on 29th September, 1952, John Cobb lost his life attempting to break the World Water Speed Record on Loch Ness, and as I had been closely associated with the project it was suggested that a short account of the activities might be of interest to the people who have come to live in the Glen since that time.

C.C.Wakefield & Co.Ltd., of Castrol Oils, as sponsors, approached me with a proposal for the use of Temple Pier as headquarters for the coming event. As this seemed such a wonderful venture to bring to our locality, I was most anxious to bring this, so, as a preliminary step, arrangements were made for Mr Cobb, Mr Railton and Capt.George Eyston to call early in May to inspect the place.

In due course they arrived: Mr John Cobb, tall, of massive build, quiet spoken and unassuming, more like a country doctor than a speed ace who held the World Land Speed Record of 394.3 m.p.h.; Mr Reid Railton, slight in comparison, designer of the famous 'Railton Mobile Special' with which John Cobb broke the world record; Capt.George Eyston, tall and energetic, a friend and one-time rival of John Cobb, and holder of the Speed record at 357 m.p.h. with his car "Thunderbolt", and chosen to become manager of the CRUSADER team of experts.

Satisfied that the site was suitable they arranged for certain repairs to be made to the old pier, and large doors 18 ft. wide by 12 ft.

high fitted to the shed where CRUSADER would be housed. For lightness in handling, the doors were covered with polished aluminium sheets over wood frames. Work was to be completed by mid-August. Electricity and telephone were laid on in the shed, and meantime the measured mile was being surveyed and marker posts erected on both sides of the loch.

The great day arrived when CRUSADER, after her long haul from Southampton, turned in at Temple Pier. John Cobb with his team were there to greet her. Mounted on her trailer she looked huge under her dust cover on which her makers' name, "Vospers Ltd." was printed in bold letters. Photographed from all angles by the 'Press', she was then stowed away for the night.

A Coles 'ten ton' diesel-electric crane (itself weighing 24 tons) arrived from Sunderland, for lifting CRUSADER on and off the loch. A farm tractor for towing her on her trailer to and from the pier, a headquarters caravan, a radio van, a small fishing vessel, the 'Astrid' from Fortrose, to act as mother ship, and various launches and speed motor boats completed the set up.

Radio engineers arrived to fit each craft including CRUSADER with H.F. radio inter-com and linked them with the shore-based radio-van. Many barrels of fuel, drums of lubricating oil, batteries for starting the jet engine, for the radio sets and for the signalling lamps,

Cobb (ctd)

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together with spares of all kinds filled another shed,

CRUSADER herself measured 31 ft. over the sponsons and weighed 3 tons. Three years of research and model testing produced the unusual shape of her hull, designed to eliminate as far as possible the adverse effects of the large forces exerted on it by the surrounding air while travelling at high speed. When planing at speed she rose up till supported on three points - the step and the ends of the two sponsons. The planing surfaces were of sheet aluminium.

To obtain maximum strength with minimum weight she was constructed with a mixture of birch ply and high strength aluminium alloy. Mr Reid Railton was responsible for the unusual layout, while the design and construction were directed by Commander Peter Du Cain of Vospers Ltd. The De Havilland Engine Company supplied a Ghost 48 MKI engine (A similar engine in a de Havilland Vampire held the world's height record, at that time, of 59,000 ft.) CRUSADER was the first water-borne craft in the world to be specially designed and built for jet propulsion.

A week or so of feverish activity followed, while behind closed doors CRUSADER'S team fitted the sponsons, checked and re-checked everything. Spectators lined the roadside from dawn to dusk every day, hopefully waiting for a glimpse of CRUSADER and, at last, she was ready to make her debut. One writer described it thus: "Such a scene would be marked by the hushed whispers of the expectant watchers on one hand and the roar of the diesel-electric crane on the other. It almost seemed akin to the 'first night' performance

of some great masterpiece. The shining doors would open like the parting of a (curtain), then slowly but surely CRUSADER would be drawn out from the dark confines into the front of the (stage), presenting a magnificent spectacle of silver and crimson. The (scene) was set, the (rehearsals) commenced whilst the many other (actors) each played (their parts)."

During the five weeks, visitors from many lands came to Temple Pier, visitors from the humble crofts of the Highlands and visitors of royal blood, including Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

All day and every day, except the Sabbath, work proceeded on CRUSADER. John Cobb respected the religious feelings of the local people, but there were many other sides to his character which endeared him to the people of the Glen.

Out in the centre of the loch, trials went on, revealing various small defects. A larger rudder had to be fitted and slight alterations made to the hull to overcome a tendency to 'stick' on flat calm water instead of rising up on the planing surfaces at the critical speed. On September 15th CRUSADER made her first attempt, reaching 135.567 m.p.h. and 160.74 m.p.h. on the return run, a mean of 173.14 m.p.h.

To be concluded in next issue.

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Correspondence to:-
Invermoriston House,
Glenmoriston,
Inverness-shire.

Telephone: Glenmoriston 211.

The Moriston Matters

prize for young writing

This issue's book token prize is awarded to
COLIN MACDONALD for

BURIED TREASURE.

One day I was digging on the beach. The hole I was digging was very deep. I kept on digging till my spade hit something hard. It was too big for a stone. I brushed some of the wet sand aside. I tugged and heaved at it. Slowly it emerged. It was a treasure chest!

And there was a gold pendant hanging out of it. I suddenly got all excited. Just what would Mum think when she saw this! Just what would the people from the museum think! What would they do with it? All they would do with it is put it in a glass case. No, that wouldn't do. I'd have to keep it myself.

So I decided to take it to one of the many caves around the beach. Then I went back home, taking the pendant with me. When I got home I cleaned it and put it in a drawer under a pile of clothes.

When I woke next morning I decided to go back to sleep. But my Mum called me. I went downstairs and into the kitchen. To my disbelief I saw my Mum holding the pendant.

"Do you know what this is?", said Mum.

"Well, it's a gold pendant", I said.

"Do you know how it came to be in your drawer?", said Dad. I raked through my mind for an answer. Finally I came up with one. I said,

"It's a present for Mum's birthday." "Oh! that's kind", said Mum. "But how did you manage to buy something as expensive as that?"

"Oh, I saved up my money", I said. "Oh well, that's very kind of you", she said. I gave a sigh of relief. She might have found out about the treasure.

I decided to go back to the beach and bury the treasure, for it had nearly got me into trouble already. I went down to the beach and into the cave. I dragged the treasure out to just inside the entrance. Before I went any further I took a quick look around outside. Nobody was there. I went back into the cave and dragged the chest out. Then someone shouted, "What's that behind you?"

My heart leaped. I had no idea what to say. A man was coming down the cliff path. My gosh, I thought, it's Mr Benton from the museum.

"What are you doing here?", I said.

"First of all", said Mr Benton, "what are you doing with that chest?"

"I found it", I said.

"And what do you intend to do with it?" he said.

"Show it to you", I said quickly.

"Then, where did you get this pendant?", he asked.

"It's not mine", I said.

"Well", said Mr Benton "as far as your Mum's concerned, it's yours"

"Yes....well, I bought it", I said.
 "Ah", said Mr Benton, "you're wrong again, this pendant happens to be over three hundred years old."
 "All right", I said, "I found it."
 "Well", said Mr Benton, "I'll have to go to the museum and show Mr Paterson".
 "Who's Mr Peterson?"
 "Oh, he's an expert on archaeology"
 "Could I come with you?" I said
 "I shouldn't see why not", said Mr Benton, "but you'll have to ask your Mum".
 Great! I thought, and I dashed off home. I had a bit of trouble explaining to Mum why I wanted to go to the museum, but I got by.
 When we arrived at the museum we went in and rushed down a long flight of stairs and into a room. "Mr Peterson", shouted Mr Benton, I've got something to show you."

Mr Peterson walked over to the chest. "My word", he gasped.
 "I thought you might be interested," said Mr Benton.
 "Where did you find it?" asked Mr Peterson.
 "Well....actually, I found it", I said.
 "Well, well", said Mr Peterson
 "I think you deserve a reward" and he dug into his pocket and fished out a pound note.
 "Here" he said, "take that".
 "Oh, thank you", I said.
 "But now", he said "I must open this chest", and with the greatest of effort he wrenched it open. Soon he was studying every single coin, jewel or piece of gold.
 "We might as well leave it to it", whispered Mr Benton....
 As I walked down the corridor I thought, next time I dig up some treasure, I certainly will show it to the museum.

W.R.I.

On Monday, 11th December, Mr Paterson of the Social Work Department came from Inverness to give a talk on 'Social Work in the Community'. The talk and the 'Questions/Answers' session were both enlightening and enjoyable. The competition - Xmas gift for Hospital Patient - was judged by Mr Paterson, who also agreed to take the gifts to ladies in Craig Dunain Hospital where they were gratefully accepted and welcomed. The winner was Mrs.D.MacDonald.

Once again we were indebted to Mrs Nicholson and Meggie for making us welcome in the school.

On Tuesday, 23rd January, Mr Rory MacKay, Inverness, accompanied by Mr Christopher Dillon gave an extremely interesting evening, with slides vividly described by Mr. MacKay of people and places around Glenmoriston, many of which were known to our older members and prompted very amusing reminiscences, and beautiful songs in Gaelic by Mr. Dillon to illustrate some of the stories. Even those of us new to the Glen enjoyed the evening. After tea the competition "Who's Who" comprising our own treasured portraits was won jointly by Miss.C.MacDonald, Mrs.K.Watson and Patricia Stoddart.

We are holding a Jumble Sale with tea in the hall on Saturday March 24th at 2 p.m. in aid of our funds. All items for sale welcome. Come and buy on Saturday, 24th March!

TODDLERS'

On December 20th whilst the school children had escaped to Inverness to see "Cinderella" at Eden Court, the Mother and Toddlers' group held their Christmas party at Dalchreichart School.

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It's very difficult to count them when they are all running around, but I think approximately 20 children attended, including two babies.

To start with the children played with the large toys provided by the mums, and chased balloons around and away from the very little ones who like to eat them. After a while three brave committee members tried to organise them into games, including Musical Hoop.

roses, the Farmer's in his Den and Pass the Parcel. After exhausting them and us everyone went through to refresh themselves with tea - orange juice and a tempting array of party fare. When they had demolished the required amount in a matter of seconds they left the washers-uppers to their fate and went back into the school-room to work off any surplus energy.

Our thanks go to Mrs Grant for the use of the school, to Margaret MacWae who played the piano and to Mr. J.E. Grant who, despite the heavy frost and being the only male present, came to support us.

W.I.

The Children's Committee would express their thanks to the S.Y.H.A. who kindly gave the use of the Hostel free of charge and to Mrs Melvin who, in spite of the fact that she was in the process of fitting, by the day of the party, willingly co-operated in all the arrangements.

CHILDREN'S.

The Glenmoriston Christmas Party was held on Saturday 23rd December. It took place at the Alltisaigh Youth Hostel in a large common-room.

The room was well decorated with an assortment of balloons, streamers, paper chains and holly. A Christmas tree with lights on it and a few glass baubles filled a corner.

The first game we had was "Pass-the-Balloons", then "The Mulberry Bush", which was followed by "Musical Arms" and "Pass-the-Parcel". Then we had tea with sandwiches, biscuits, sausage rolls and buns as well as lemon or orange juice. There were

with objects contained inside them, like animals, cars and magnifying glasses. After tea we had several games of "The Farmer's in his Den". John Grant played the accordion while Mr Flavell accompanied him with a guitar. After, we had ice-cream, jelly and blancmange.

Later we put all the chairs in rows and we sang a few Christmas carols. Then we heard a jingling of bells, held in the hand of John Curson. I thought he impersonated Santa Claus wonderfully. We all received our presents and were given an apple and orange from Mrs Fraser on leaving for home. I enjoyed it and am looking forward to next year's Christmas party!

Judith Watson.

P.S. "I went to the big ones' party, and we had balloons and Sandra ate one! Santa said to me: "Hello Claire". He had a bell and he had reindeer, too. Mr Fraser tipped Santa's bag upsidedown. My favourite game was "The Grand Old Duke of York". I liked it".

As told by Claire Tomlin (4).

AND LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST.

The night was cold but not too severe on Dec.28th when a number of the Senior Citizens gathered in the Hotel for a Christmas Party. Hot soup and a buffet laden with tempting fare soon had everyone in the right mood to enjoy the dancing and games which followed. One of those present said afterwards: "It was a good night. Everyone seemed to let their hair down". Although no one appeared with streaming tresses there were some people in very strange attire in the dressing-up game. Even the gentleman who thought he was going to remain so soberly clothed was finally seen wearing a big bright red shirt over his jacket and all! But the prizes went to John Smart and Father Mark, and for the hotly-contested games of Musical Chairs and Musical Knees, Margaret Campbell and Cathie Smart, Donelly MacDonald and

Cathie Smart won Pass the Parcel. Music was provided by John Grant Dalchreichart and Mr and Mrs Robert Wilson, Kirkhill. After a cup of tea the party broke up to find that outside the frost had come in earnest. However, everyone reached home safely and thanks are due to Mr Leather, with his staff, for whom this was his last function before his departure south.

Earlier in the month the committee had organised a sale in the school and they are very grateful to Mrs Nicholson and to all who donated goods or who helped to clear the stalls in record time. In not much more than an hour over £100 had been raised and the funds were in a healthy state once again.

M.E.F.

INVERMORISTON SCHOOL.

The Autumn term drew to a close with the presentation in the school of a Nativity play entitled "Christmas through the window". All the children had speaking parts and performed very well in spite of the lack of space. We were pleased to welcome so many parents and friends, who enabled us to send a donation of £5.55 to the Scottish Council for Spastics. Our special thanks to Mrs Nairn for her talented help with costumes and 'props' of animals.

The following day roles were reversed and we joined Dalchreichart School as part of the audience at a matinee performance of Cinderella at Eden Court Theatre which was enjoyed by all. Mr Fraser also attended.

The new term began on Thursday 4th January and although the severe weather somewhat disrupted the first two weeks we look forward now to a term of good attendance and hard work.

M.L.N.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

I would like to introduce a note of gratitude for friendliness to the Church. Thomas is the great example of the good man who was friendly without being able to feel sure. The Church, like her Lord, reaches out friendly hands to the modern Thomases. The Church is sorry if her own witness has sometimes made it harder to believe, if her own witness still makes it harder to believe. The note of gratitude is for the response at Christmas - in the atmosphere of Worship on Christmas Eve - in the Carol Singing in the Glen in the context of the Christmas message - in the quietly given tangible support, known to be necessary for anybody who does anything at all. It is for no selfish reason, no cramping, freedom-sapping reason, but for the great positive Good of all that the Church reaches out hands - hands that ought to bear the imprints of the nails - that speak of real care and concern for mankind. Thanks for the warm, friendly help. May it not be disappointed! It will not be when the Church is true to her Head.

P.F.

Afterwards they went in procession to the Abbey Church, singing "The three kings of Orient are", as it was Twelfth Night. At the Christmas crib in the church they sang other carols.

Then, in the Abbey School assembly hall, there was a party tea, followed by games. Everything went off very successfully, though the very bad weather conditions prevented children who lived away from the main roads from attending. However, one family from Glenmoriston did manage to get there.

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THE ABBEY.

The Catholics of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston had their usual Christmas services, with a particularly large contingent from Glenmoriston attending Midnight Mass in the Abbey Church.

Before that, there had been a Penitential Service in preparation for Christmas. This is a Bible Service on the theme of Repentance, with hymns, scripture readings and prayers; all present are asked to reflect on their way of life in the sight of God.

Several priests from the Abbey assisted with the confessions (or the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as it is now called) and the service ended with prayers of thanksgiving.

The children of primary school age also had a Penitential Service before Christmas. They had chosen the hymns and gospel readings (Zacchaeus up the tree, and the parable of the Lost Sheep) beforehand and themselves suggested the kind of thing they had to be sorry for. There was a good attendance, including children from Invergarry and Glenmoriston.

The children had their Christmas celebration after the new term began, on the afternoon of Saturday 6th January. This began with Mass in the Abbey chapter-house, at which the children read prayers composed by themselves and, instead of a sermon, answered questions on the gospel reading. They accompanied themselves on a variety of musical instruments for the hymns. One of the new Eucharistic Prayers for Children was used at the Mass.

ABBEY (CONT)

Until the Village Hall closed for repairs, the Catholics had mass in it on the second Sunday of each month. This will not be resumed, however, when the renovated Hall is ready for use again.

FATHER MARK.

As a former pupil of Glenurquhart S.S.School may I offer a few humble words in appreciation of the headmastership enjoyed under Mr. James Campbell, now gone; and, in doing so, I trust I echo the thoughts and feelings of many of my fellow pupils.

As a teacher Mr. Campbell was gifted. His subject was English; his knowledge in that field both wide and profound. This he endeavoured to impart to his pupils with a preciseness and accuracy, so characteristic of him in all things. Significantly it was the rudiments that were stressed - for without foundation the house cannot be built.

But Mr Campbell was not just a man of learning; he was too a man of discipline; a man of morals. Education is not just an end in itself - rather he saw it, I think, as a fundamental part of life itself. Thus as headmaster he wished education and discipline be intertwined, and yet he was fair, concerned with individual moral growth, something of which may be captured in his Monday morning words, "to be clean, loyal and true".

Sadly, however, it was not always whilst he was with us as headmaster that appreciation was expressed; let us thus render thanks posthumously, inadequate though these thanks may be.

J.G.

tributes: continued from ¹⁴ page 17.

I am sure that every pupil of Glenurquhart S.S.School, both past and present, felt a sense of loss when they learned that Mr. Campbell had passed away.

I was lucky enough to renew my acquaintance with this man, who taught me to love and appreciate my mother tongue, and during the weeks he spent as a patient in hospital I was able to visit him regularly and we recalled once more the many plays, poems and indeed lessons in life that he taught me to understand and to love. He was always an imposing figure but under his rather aloof exterior lay a burning love for his country's cultural heritage and I feel that to have studied under him was indeed a privilege.

I know that I shall never forget or lose the love for my language that he nurtured, and though his presence may no longer be in Glenurquhart I know that the many pupils who studied under him will not forget his teaching or his dedication.

I feel that one sentence that he said to me in the last week of his illness sums up what he felt about his life's work:

'English has always been the great love of my life and I feel that if I have passed that love on to a few of my pupils then it has been worthwhile.'

Alison McDonnell.

Mary Mackintosh writes:-

"He made English literature come alive for me and helped me to find a pleasure in it that will always remain with me".

IN MEMORIAM

GRACE JOHNSTONE.

Mrs Grace Johnstone came to Invermoriston with her husband and family when he took over the job as manager of the shop - always a demanding task - and supported him loyally as he worked to meet the varying demands of different seasons. She was also devoted to her children and their welfare, and it was while living with David in England that she died suddenly and unexpectedly. Indeed her Christmas greetings arrived in the Glen on the day of her funeral. To the family, Ross, Hugh, Helen, David and Grace and her grandchildren we offer our sincere sympathy.

JAMES CAMPBELL.

The wider community and our Glenurouhart Secondary scholars and ex-scholars were saddened to hear of the death in hospital of their headmaster, Mr. James F. Campbell, M.A., M.Ed., on January 17th. We knew he had had a serious operation, but we had hoped he was making progress.

His subject was English and during his thirteen years in Drumnadrochit his pupils were quick to appreciate his scholarship and his ability to communicate it to them. In Glenmoriston some of us will remember experiencing this for ourselves when he very acceptably and with great modesty proposed 'The Immortal Memory' at a Burns Supper. He had a natural reserve which made it difficult to know him easily, but he was

asked for help.

At the Memorial Service in Kilmore Church on Friday, 19th January there was a large congregation including the School prefects and some of the other pupils representing their classes, and the

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Rev. John Campbell in an eloquent tribute referred to him as a perfectionist. This trait could be seen in all aspects of his work - in the office, in the classroom, in the community where he played an unobtrusive but valuable part, and in his personal friendships too where he set himself very high standards.

We share in the sense of loss felt by all who knew him - especially his scholars to whom his death came as a great shock, and to Mrs Campbell and his own family we would offer our deep sympathy.

an ex-pupil's tribute

I was deeply sorrowed to hear of the untimely death of Mr. James F. Campbell, formerly headmaster of Glenurouhart S.S. School. Not only will he be sadly missed by his wife and family, but by the surrounding community which he served so steadfastly for thirteen years.

I will always be grateful for the five years I spent studying at his school under his direction; not only did he teach, in the academic sense, but by example, carrying his ideals and beliefs into the everyday world in which he lived and worked.

I remember him as a just, Godfearing, and reliable person giving of his utmost in every situation and expecting the same qualities in measures according to ability from those he dealt with.

I shall always be thankful to him for reinforcing such basic values in myself.

Sandra McDonnell,

in Memoriam (ctd)

The death of Dr. John G. Sclater, B.Sc., MB, ChB., MRCPE, at Tor Bheag, Dundreggan, on the evening of January 23rd was very sudden - although he had not enjoyed the best of health in his retirement there - for he had visited the Library Van as usual in the afternoon. He had been a notable practitioner in Edinburgh with a clinic where he specialized in geriatric care, but at Tor Bheag we knew him for his genial hospitality and for his hard work in the garden which he did much to reclaim from the hillside during his six years in the Glen. To Mrs Sclater and the family we would extend our sympathy in the shock and sorrow of their bereavement.

IN BRIEF.

On December 16th Loch Ness Gun Club held a 30 - Clay Target Shoot. As it was so near Christmas it was decided to call the occasion a Festive Shoot and to have ^{prizes} in kind. These prizes were donated by Mr. Ian Grant, Glenmoriston Estates Ltd, members of the Club and their friends. Their generosity was such, that every shooter was able to go home at the end of the day with something for their Christmas dinner. The Club Committee wish to thank all who sponsored this shoot. They also wish to give a special thank you to the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel for their hard work, making it possible for the shooters to be presented with their prizes, to partake a Bar Supper and round off a fine day's sport with a Ceilidh. A most enjoyable time was had by shooters and locals alike.

D.J.S.

Our best wishes go with Bill and Ann Leather as they move "back down south"..... and a warm welcome is extended to Mr Robert Shepherd and his wife, Judith, who are now manager and manageress of the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel.

We have also lost from the community Mr and Mrs Melvin and Keith of the Youth Hostel and we hope they have now settled happily at Lewiston beside Mr Melvin's parents. And we welcome to the community our new youngest member - Grant Cameron, son of Mr and Mrs Cameron, Alltisaigh, who was born on December 31st 1978.

Congratulations to Wilson Girvan who along with his crew-mate, Bob Wilson from Nairn finished first in his class in the Snoman Rally.

Glenmoriston Estates Ltd held their Annual Staff Party on Saturday, 6th January. A lively evening progressed with music from Na Calagain Trio from Inverness. To conclude the festivities a vote of thanks was given by Mike Johnson to Mr Ian Grant for a most enjoyable evening.

A coffee evening and exhibition of relics of bygone days will be held in Dalchreichart School on Thursday 15th March, from 7 p.m. onwards. The proceeds will be donated to under-privileged children in Africa. Admission is 20p. We would welcome the loan of any old articles, etc. For the benefit of those unable to attend on the 15th the exhibition will remain open until Tues. 20th March.

The Fort William/Oban bus that used to leave Farraline Park at 12 noon now leaves at 11.40 a.m. running twenty minutes earlier than given in the timetable. This means that it is due in Invermoriston at 12.44 p.m.